CATCH THE WIND-UPS RETRO REPERTOIRE AT THE PYRAMID CABARET {page 6}

HOW CHEESY IS THIS? A HEALTHY FONDUE BRIMMING WITH AWESOME SAUCE {page 10}

TALK OF THE GOWN A BATTLE ROYAL FOR THE YEAR'S MOST STYLIN' BRIDE {page 9}

WINNIPEG metro®

Thursday, December 22, 2011
www.metronews.ca

News worth sharing.

Occupy camp cleared out

SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

▶ Terry Weaymouth, standing in front of grassy patches where the camp yurt and his own tent stood until Wednesday morning, holds the enforcement notice he was issued. Unlike past notices, the box for eviction is checked off on this one.

"I'm disappointed at how disrespectful the police force was. They tore all the tarps. They just ripped it down and took all our stuff. They ripped all the tarps on the yurt, and that all belongs to the Twelve Tribes (community). And they, yeah, destroyed it." KRISTAPS BALODIS, OCCUPIER

Occupiers had been in Memorial Park since Oct. 15 Camp of 30 tents dwindled down to three as weather grew colder

About 30 natural-resource officers and city police swooped into the Occupy Winnipeg encampment at Memorial Park at 7 a.m. Wednesday to enforce a provincial removal order issued last week.

Police briefly detained three occupiers at the camp while NROs dismantled and loaded a yurt, two tents and all contents onto a trailer. Occupiers were told they could claim their belongings after they were catalogued.

"They sent 30 guys to take care of three peaceful protesters," said Kristaps Balodis, who had been sleeping in the yurt.

"This isn't the end.... This isn't the last you'll see of the camp. That I can say for sure."

Of the three evicted occupiers, Terry Weaymouth was the only one to get a written notice of eviction.

"Occupy Winnipeg is pretty much done, in my opinion, unless we take immediate action to set up somewhere else," Weaymouth told Metro Winnipeg as he surveyed the empty park.

"Personally, I'd like to see (a tent) go up tonight, even if it's just one tent, just to defy these f--ers."

Weaymouth said Manitoba Conservation district supervisor Joe Johannesson told him that a hay-bale fire last week exhausted the last of the province's patience.

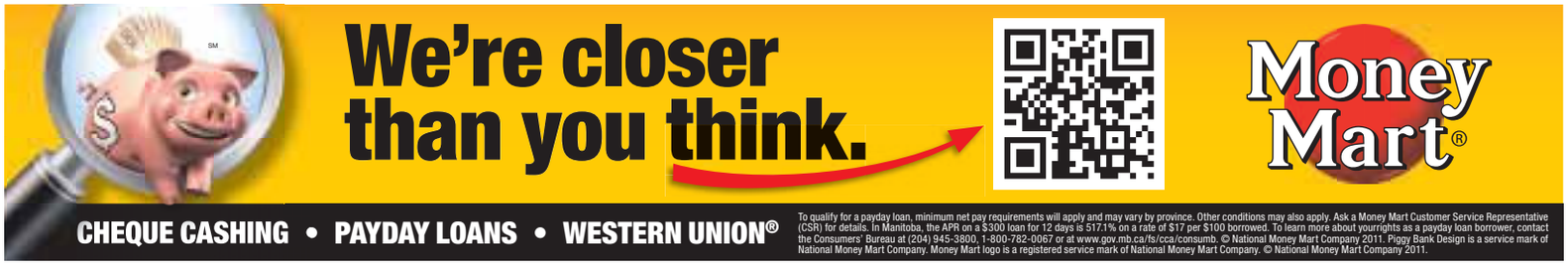
"He said, 'Well, it's because of the last fire.... Safety is being threatened, so (we've) got to do this.' That's just an excuse."

In a written statement on Monday regarding last week's removal orders, the province said, "As with past orders, structures that are occupied will be allowed to remain."

In the afternoon, Conservation Minister Dave Chomiak told media the province decided to remove the camp upon receving a report from the fire commissioner on Tuesday calling the camp unsafe.

When asked what the response would be if occupiers were to erect a new tent, Chomiak said, "We'd immediately remove it."

SEAN LEDWICH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1 news

Tech-savvy Canadian kids fuel a pre-Christmas spike in 'Is Santa Real?' Google searches.

1 Download the free ScanLife app with your smartphone at 2dscan.com

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3 The codes will direct your mobile browser to **m.metronews.ca**

On the web at metronews.ca

Thousands of North Koreans mourn Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang while defectors send leaflets via balloon. Slide shows at metronews.ca/inpictures

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Two men sought in shooting death

Police are looking for two suspects in the shooting death of Darren Paul George.

On Dec. 7 police said they rushed to the 700 block of Beverley Street at around 4 a.m. There, they found a man, later identified as George, 22, in the back alley in critical condition. He was taken to the Health Sciences Centre for treatment but later died.

Police have issued arrest warrants for Chance Moses Guimond, 19, and Cody Joseph Kakeeway, 18 in relation to George's death. Anyone with information is asked to call police at 986-6222.

The day of the shooting, one area resident, who would only give his first name as Carlos, said the violence in the area is frustrating. METRO

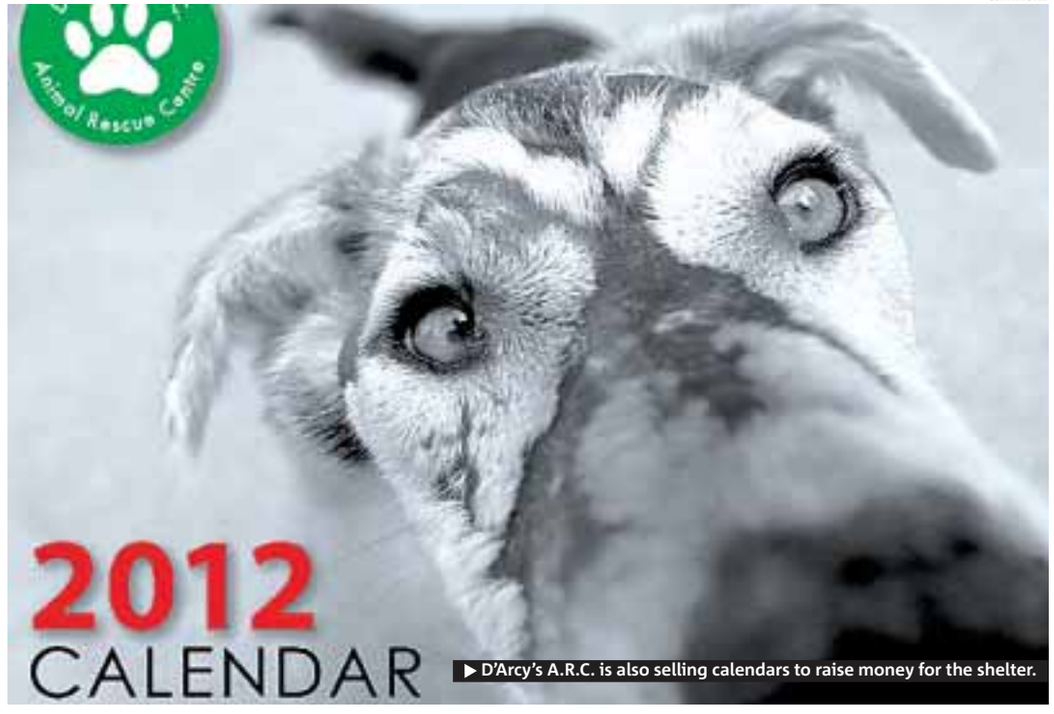
CONTRIBUTED

▶ Chance Moses Guimond, 19

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Cody Joseph Kakeeway, 18

CONTRIBUTED



▶ D'Arcy's A.R.C. is also selling calendars to raise money for the shelter.

Shelter in the running for major money

- Won't find out until Jan. 25, 2012, if they've won $100,000
- Final decision now in the hands of Aviva's judges

ELISHA DACEY
@METRONEWS.CA

Thanks to the social media power of click-happy supporters, a Winnipeg animal shelter is in the running for some serious barks — er, bucks.

D'Arcy's A.R.C. is a finalist for Aviva Insurance Community Fund's latest social media contest, which could see $100,000 flow to the shelter's coffers.

"We may not receive all that money, but we're hoping to see some funds," said shelter executive director D'Arcy Johnston.

To become a finalist, the shelter had to submit an idea to the contest and have people vote for the project. Johnston said the shelter received more than 10,000 votes online before voting closed Friday.

Should the shelter win the $100,000 grand prize, a quarter of the money will go towards repairing the shelter's degrading kennels, while the other 75 per cent will help them partner with a local spay-and-neuter program to increase the program's size and capacity.

Eventually, the shelter would like to reach an agreement with the City of Winnipeg to run their own spay and neuter program, saying the city has spent millions on the problem over the past several years only to see the stray animal population increase.

"We want to show the city we're not just talking," said Johnston, noting the city's agreement with the Winnipeg Humane Society and Animal Services expires in 2013. "We want to show them there are alternatives. We think we can do better."

Rainbow Stage executive dies

Rainbow Stage is mourning the sudden loss of one of their own.

Executive producer Ken Peter, 66, died Tuesday.

He was found in his home by a family member, said an employee at Ken Peter's Dance Express, and died of an apparent heart attack.

Rainbow Stage general manager Julie Eccles said they will be respectful of the family's wishes.

Doug Meacham, president of Rainbow Stage's board of directors, issued this statement Wednesday morning:

"It is with great sadness that the board of directors and staff announce that Ken Peter has passed away on Tuesday, December 20, 2011," the statement said. METRO

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Ken Peter

News in brief

Man shot twice after carjacking

PACIFIC AVENUE. A Winnipeg man was taken to hospital after a brutal carjacking in the North End.

Police said the man, 22, and a 24-year-old female passenger were inside his Chevy Silverado truck on Pacific Avenue at about 7:40 p.m. Tuesday when three to five men wearing masks approached the truck. While they were getting out of the truck, one of the males produced a shotgun and fired several rounds at the man during the getaway, striking the man twice, once in the upper body and once in the lower body. METRO

Tory MP seeks rights for unborn

He deplores 'sub-human' state

A Conservative MP says Parliament should consider extending human rights to unborn children.

Stephen Woodworth's view is seen as an attempt to reopen the debate around abortion laws.

"Canadian law provides no human rights protection whatsoever for children before the moment of complete birth," Woodworth said Wednesday.

"This means that in Canada a child is legally considered to be sub-human while his or her little toe remains in the birth canal, even if he or she is breathing."

The MP from Kitchener, Ont., doesn't explicitly mention the word abortion, but he suggests it is time to "examine" the question of granting human rights protections to unborn children.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

PM's blockade

- Woodworth's views face a bleak future in Parliament.
- Prime Minister Stephen Harper vowed in the last election to stamp out any debate and defeat any private member's bills that might arise from members of his caucus on abortion.

Homecoming. Love sails in

▶ It's great to be home: Petty Officer 2nd Class Marissa Gaeta, left, kisses her girlfriend of two years, Petty Officer 3rd Class Citlalic Snell, yesterday. Gaeta's ship returned from 80 days at sea.

BRIAN J. CLARK/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS;

80-day voyage ends with a kiss

It is a time-honoured tradition at U.S. navy homecomings — one lucky sailor is chosen to be first off the ship for the long-awaited kiss with a loved one. Wednesday in Virginia Beach, Va., for what is believed to be the first time, the happily reunited couple was gay.

Topless activists accuse 'butchers' of abuse

They say they were made to undress in the woods in freezing temperatures, punched in the head and back, threatened with death and rape and smeared with paint.

A group of women from a Ukrainian topless-protest group Wednesday recounted their ordeal at the hands of security officials in neighbouring Belarus.

Oksana Shechko said she and two fellow activists were first interrogated on a bus for 12 hours. Then the indignities began …

"It was a real fight for survival," Shechko said after returning to Kiev, Ukraine.

"We ended up in the hands of the butchers who kill and terrify the Belarusian people."

Shechko, 24, said the activists were made to sit still on the bus for several hours, prevented from speaking or moving.

SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Activists Aleksandra Nemchinova, left, Inna Shevchenko, centre, and Oksana Shechko tell their story in Kiev, Ukraine, yesterday.

"If we moved our heads or hands, they beat us," Shechko said.

They were left half-naked in a forest, where they eventually found help from area residents.

Shechko claimed they were punished for a protest in Minsk in which they bared their breasts to bring attention to President Aleksander Lukashenko's crackdown on the opposition.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brutal rule

- Lukashenko has repressed opposition and media since becoming leader of Belarus, a former Soviet republic, in 1994.
- In December 2010 elections, he was declared winner, but protesters denounced alleged vote fraud.
- Police arrested around 700 people, some of whom remain in jail.

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Controversial EU airline carbon charge gets go-ahead from court

MARKUS SCHREIBER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ An airplane takes off at Berlin's Tegel airport during snowy and stormy weather last January.

U.S. airlines failed Wednesday to block an EU law charging airlines flying to Europe for their carbon pollution. The decision by an EU court was widely hailed by environmentalists but the Fitch ratings agency said it raised the spectre of a global trade dispute.

The European Court of Justice in Luxembourg dismissed arguments that imposing the European Union's cap-and-trade carbon-credits program on flights to and from European airports infringes on national sovereignty or violates international aviation treaties. U.S. and other non-European airlines had sued the EU, arguing that they were exempt from the law.

Environmentalists called the law a first step in controlling carbon emissions in a key economic sector. But Fitch Ratings said the decision could deepen rather than quell the dispute, raised in a lawsuit brought by U.S. and Canadian airlines acting through the industry trade organization Airlines for America. The protest was supported by China, India and others with international carriers.

The U.S. airlines said the regulation was tantamount to "an exorbitant tax," but the EU said the added costs would amount to a few dollars per ticket. Fitch added that retaliation could come in the form of slot allocations at airports and authorizing routes, especially in developing countries.

The program, due to go into effect Jan. 1, aims to make airlines accountable for their carbon emissions. Aviation is the fastest-growing source of carbon pollution. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. WEDNESDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 36.65 (11,753.53)	+ 0.42¢ (97.48¢ US)
OIL	**Natural gas**
+ 1.43¢ US ($98.67 US)	$3.155 US (+ 2.7¢ US)
	Gold
	$1,613.60 US (- $4.00 US)

Proposed takeovers of RIM dismissed

- Analysts grapple over BlackBerry maker's future
- Shares up 10 per cent with proposal from Amazon

PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ A customer looks at a BlackBerry Torch at a Best Buy in Mountain View, Calif.

With more takeover rumours roiling around Research In Motion and lifting its stock price, analysts said Wednesday there's little chance the struggling BlackBerry maker will be acquired in the near future.

"I think from the board's perspective, which tends to be friendly to the co-CEOs, they will want to give them a chance because six months ago this was a $50 stock," William Blair & Co. analyst Anil Doradla said.

Reuters reported Tuesday that Internet retailer Amazon.com recently approached RIM to discuss a takeover, but the Canadian company rejected the move. In the past, Microsoft and Nokia also dabbled in potential offers, but they were also rebuffed by RIM. Samsung, a growing player in the smartphone market, also has been named as a potential suitor.

"We continue to view near-term mergers and acquisitions for RIM as very unlikely given the company's dismal performance and uncertain outlook," said National Bank Financial analyst Kris Thompson.

$265M RIM's quarterly profits plunged to US$265 million, a drop from $911 million in the same three-month period last year.

RIM has disappointed investors recently with the delay of its next generation of BlackBerry smartphones until late 2012 and disappointing financial results.

BMO Capital Markets analyst Tim Long said an acquisition is unlikely due to RIM's business model. RIM makes the operating system and puts it into its own handset, delivering a complete product. Activist shareholder Vic Alboini said the company will either be acquired as is, or broken up and sold. THE CANADIAN PRESS

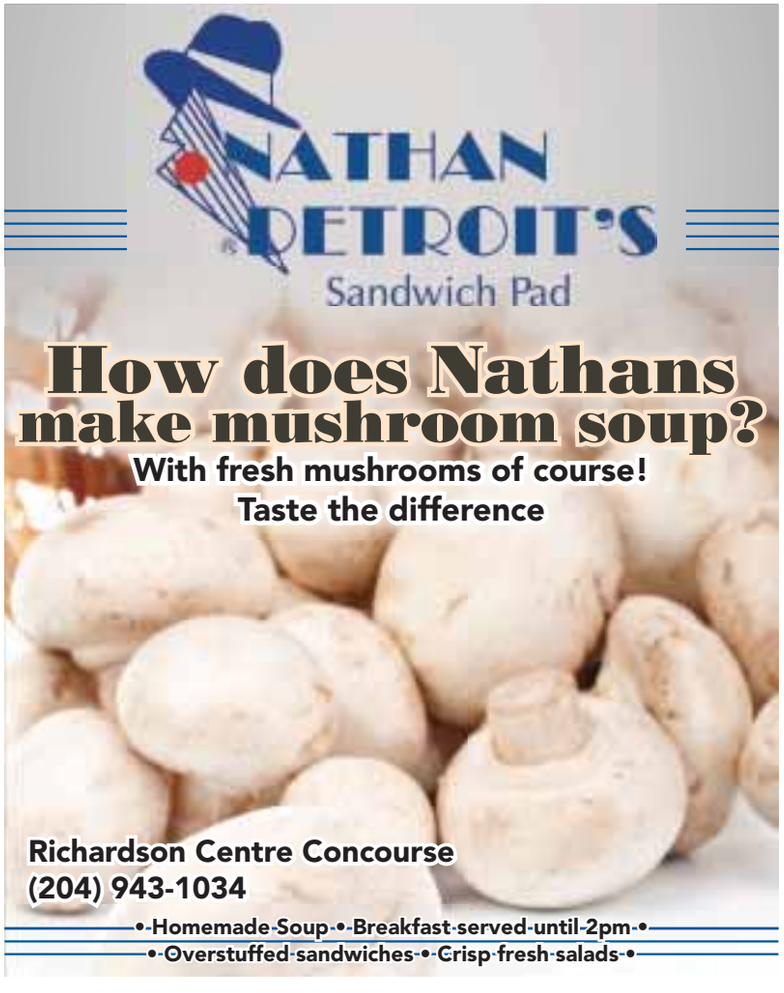
Yahoo and Facebook get closer

Yahoo is deepening its connections with Facebook's online social network.

The latest bond announced late Tuesday will enable Facebook users to share more of their activities on Yahoo's websites, including which stories they are reading.

Yahoo Inc. introduced the Facebook-sharing option in its main new section three months ago. The same feature will now be available in 26 other parts of Yahoo's site, including its "omg" service for entertainment news and sections devoted to television, movies and games.

Yahoo is hoping to give people more reasons to visit and stick around its website. Yahoo ultimately wants to sell more online advertising — an area where Facebook has been gaining ground. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



STRIKE THE HARP AND JOIN THE CHORUS

HE SAYS ...

JOHN MAZEROLLE
METRO

I'm not much for Christmas carols.

I enjoy the joking songs, like Santa Baby or The Christmas Shoes, but otherwise the only holiday tune I like is the creepy Carol of the Bells, which brings to mind the warm holiday image of Santa Claus being stabbed repeatedly with a candy cane.

So, in a bid to make myself a better, more Christmassy person, I decided this week to open myself up to some holiday "classics" for the first time in years. And let me say that, upon further review, Christmas songs are bonkers.

There's We Wish You a Merry Christmas, with its special yuletide message of "Bring us some figgy pudding or we will tear you limb from limb."

There's Winter Wonderland, the story of a man planning a fun day that includes building a snowman, pretending it's a priest and talking to it about his marital future. I'm thinking his belle doesn't know this plan yet and that, if she did, she'd have to "hurry on her way," Frosty-style.

"Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow."

Also, there's the full version of Jingle Bells, which includes a little-sung verse where a man in a one-horse open sleigh laughs at another man who has fallen and is sprawling in the snow. He leaves him there, possibly for dead. I must say it rather improves the song.

The hands-down winner, though, of Craziest Christmas Carol is Do You Hear What I Hear? I assume it was written when absinthe still had kick.

It starts with the wind asking a lamb if it sees a dancing star. In most songs, that would be excitement enough. But there's more: The lamb asks his shepherd, with whom he has a good working relationship, if he hears singing.

You would think the shepherd would then realize he's been putting in too many 12-hour days and should really take that Dead Sea stroll he's been saving for. But instead he runs to the mighty king, who apparently has no security at his mighty castle, and tells the monarch the joyous news: "I found a talking lamb!"

No — of course, he tells him that a child is shivering in the cold. With no women around, the king and shepherd's best plan for getting the baby warm is to bring it silver and gold.

Between the talking animal and the potential case of child neglect, this song is one hell of a wild ride.

So, I'll admit, Christmas carols are more fun than I remembered. They should be sung far and wide by you and your family and your lamb, if you have one.

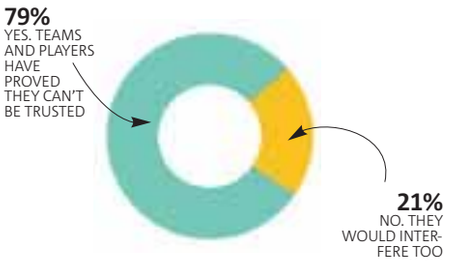
And though it's been said, many times, many ways: Bring me my figgy pudding.

Or else.

Read more of John Mazerolle's columns at metronews.ca/hesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Should independent doctors monitor concussions in pro sports?



Local tweets

- **@the_hab:** I had to put in a flash order of #garbagemitts they are in people if you want em. #fashion #winnipeg
- **@ryanchartier:** Sure doesn't feel like the first day of winter in #Winnipeg.
- **@Ani_Em:** Oooohhh the weather outside is frightful... And sooo are a lot of people... Apparently #winnipeg
- **@DeanOpperman:** Occupy Winnipeg is over! Now I can go back to steering clear of Memorial Park. #OWS
- **@chrisreid1983:** Whoa, just realized I haven't used my heater this morning. Its late DECEMBER! #Winnipeg #GlobalWarming
- **@PeasDiddy:** Stoked for the #potluck tonight, not eating all day #hungyhungryhippos
- **@AlexBrink10:** Ready to head home and see mom #mommasboy
- **@JoeDaleySports:** For those of you still in denial , Christmas is 4 days away , just in case you wanted to start your shopping. #fb

Daily Zoom

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

Christmas comes early

Taking treats from a tiger

Sumatran tiger cubs tore apart a wrapped Christmas present at Taronga Zoo on Wednesday in Sydney. Animals received Christmas-themed enrichment foods as part of the zoo's regular program to encourage the animals to forage for food and help improve hunting abilities.

GETTY IMAGES

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY IMAGES

Quite the yuletide feast

Barry the Tasmanian devil got a bowl of kangaroo blood with offal and bones while freshly made popcorn was served to the gorillas, who are kept on a low-fat diet. The zoo's seals got blue swimmer crabs and fish snacks delivered in ice from the Sydney Fish Markets, the CBC reported. METRO

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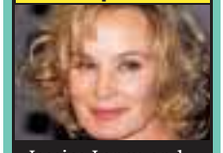
2 scene

Split



Jessica Lange and Sam Shepard have separated after nearly 30 years together. A publicist for Lange confirmed the split Monday. People magazine first reported the separation, saying the actors concluded their relationship almost two years ago.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CBS has year's biggest margin of victory in prime time ratings

A blast from the past

The Wind-ups bring the noise from the '60s, '70s and '80s ◐ Find them at Pyramid Cabaret

BACKSTAGE PASS

JARED STORY
METRO WINNIPEG

CONTRIBUTED

▶ Andy Morton and bassist Rejean Ricard bring the energy but don't expect any Top 40.

The Wind-ups retro repertoire consists of deep cuts from the '60s, '70s and '80s, covert cover songs that often get mistaken for originals.

"We play gigs and people will ask 'Do you have a CD?' We're like 'No, this ain't our shit'," guitarist Rob Pachol says, 42, who is joined in the Winnipeg band by vocalist Andy Morton, bassist Rejean Ricard, drummer Jacques Dubois and alumni member Deano Desrochers.

"It's funny because we've been going for almost nine years and everybody in this band has been involved in original music, but The Wind-ups just haven't cleared that hurdle. It's a slippery slope. Once you start writing your own stuff the fun can get drained out of it."

Fun is the name of the game. The Wind-ups pick its second-hand songs with merriment in mind.

"It's about trying to be entertaining as opposed to making some kind of aesthetic statement," Pachol says. "We're not trying to be artistic. It's not even our own music. We're not trying to sell a concept to anybody, it's just 'Is this song going to be fun to play and get the energy across.'"

For maximum energy, The Wind-ups dive into late '60s R&B, early '70s hard rock, mid '70s pub rock, late '70s punk and early '80s power pop.

"We're lucky in that we can play something by The Yardbirds and then go into The Damned, then Motörhead and then Elvis Costello, artists you'd think people wouldn't want to hear side by side, but it works somehow," Pachol says.

"I guess (it works) because we play things the way we play them. We could probably play anything and it would sound appropriate. We could do a Bob Dylan song and it would sound in the pocket."

The Wind-ups play tonight at The Pyramid Cabaret as part of Mod Club Winnipeg's Holiday Spectacular. Also on the bill is DJ Chico and The Invisible Man. Admission is $5 at the door. Showtime is 10 pm.

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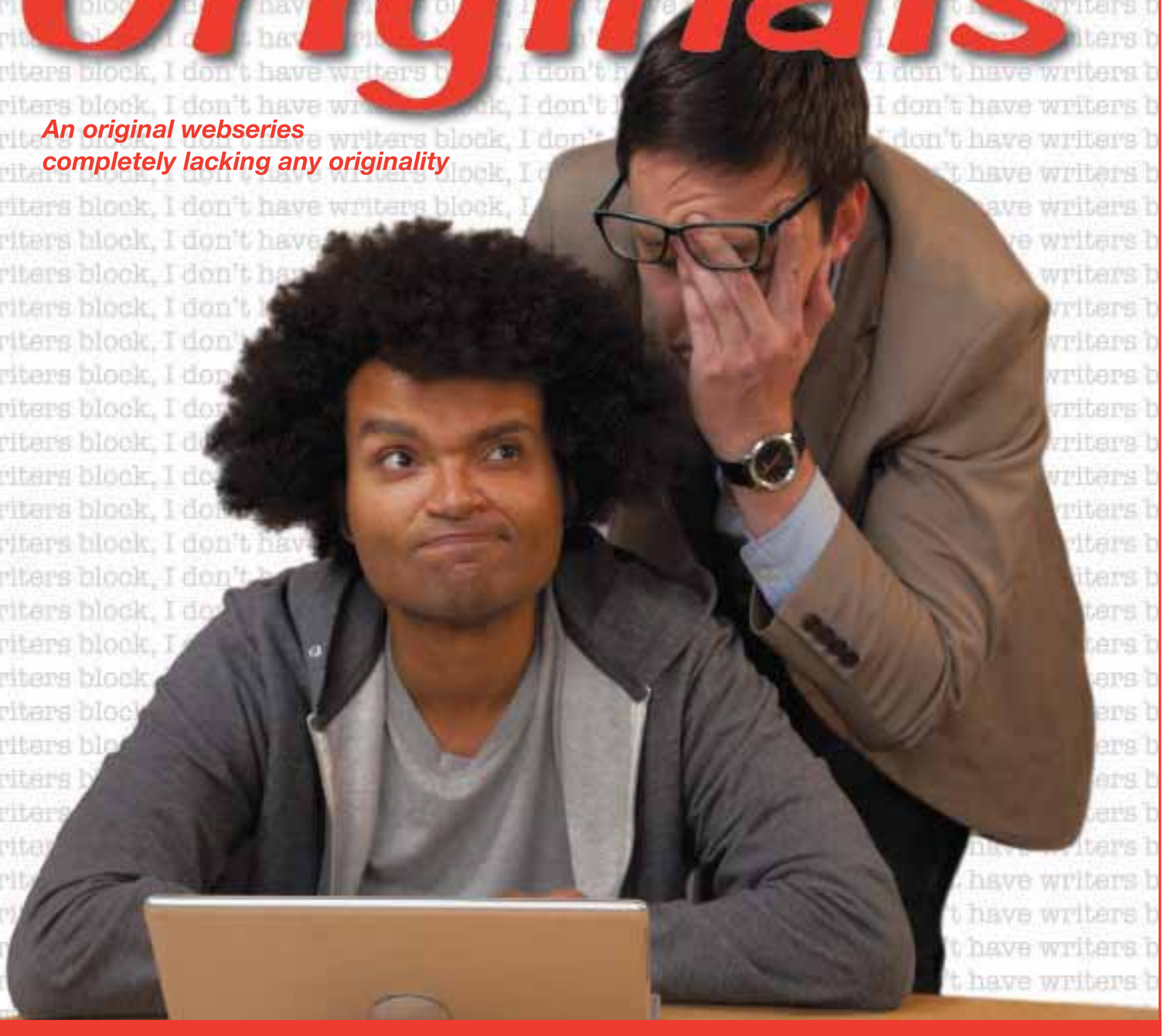
From a writer of "The Office"...

Originals

An original webseries completely lacking any originality



In today's episodes...

The Originals webseries draws to a close today with episodes 8 and 9. Will the guys finally come up with an original TV show idea for their big pitch meeting? Will Jason win Carina? Will Marsha win Jason? Will Trish really help Bryce? Will there be a wrap party? Find out the answers to these and other intriguing questions. Watch the concluding episodes today.

Watch at www.facebook.com/OriginalsTheSeries

Did Jones get the 'X'?

There are rumours The X-Factor host Steve Jones won't be back next season Jones' rep denies the claims

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Steve Jones

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Steve Jones reportedly will not return as host the U.S. edition of The X-Factor after one season on the job, according to Hollyscoop.

"He got terrible reviews from critics when he started, and things haven't got better. There have been mistakes and he just doesn't seem to have the knack for dealing with contestants," a source says. "The executives at Fox have already decided not to renew his contract and so, short of a miracle happening, it is pretty much a done deal that he will not take part next season."

However, Jones' rep told People magazine that the reports of his imminent dismissal were "a fabrication." "There have been absolutely no conversations about Steve Jones leaving The X Factor," the representative told the magazine.

It's sad that a rumoured firing is the only way to make people care about The X-Factor.

Timberlake off the market?

I take this with a huge grain of salt, but some people out there on the world wide web are reporting that Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel are engaged. (Remember: This is the same Internet that also said that Bon Jovi died earlier this week.) Lainey Gossip points to this Tweet from a gallery owner in Jackson, Wy.: "Word on the street is that Justin Timberlake proposed to Jessica Biel at the Amangani last night...we're picking out post-engagement presents for them just in case they come in! Trying to play it cool..."

Sounds like a huge publicity stunt from the gallery store owner but you never know.

Justin Bieber

More baby troubles for the Biebs

Justin Bieber may have thought taking a DNA test had gotten him clear of Mariah Yeater, the woman claiming Bieber is the father of her baby, but as far as Yeater is concerned nothing has been resolved.

"I dropped my lawsuit, but never my claim," Yeater tells the Chicago Sun-Times. "I still definitely want a DNA test and I want to refile my paternity case — I do believe he is the father."

METRO

Angry Anthony eyes custody battle with JLo

While they've remained civil since their July split, it's reportedly about to get very ugly between Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony, with a "vicious" custody battle on the way, according to Us Weekly.

The trigger seems to be Lopez's new boyfriend, Casper Smart, and his apparent bonding with Lopez and Anthony's 3-year-old twins, Max and Emme. Antony reportedly "hit the roof" after seeing photos of Lopez, Smart and the kids enjoying Thanksgiving together in Hawaii and is "going back on his word and saying he wants joint custody," a source says.

"He wants to make Jennifer suffer because she's having fun with someone new, and he knows this will hurt her on the deepest level."

METRO

Jennifer Lopez and Casper Smart

Celebrity tweets

@joelmchale

Thanks news outlets. I am now fully informed about how the Post Office is busier around the holidays. Man, was I in the dark.

@rosariodawson

I'm so glad I made it back to London in time to surprise my Mama with Duran Duran at the O2! They just played my song! Rio!!!!!!

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In and out of fashion

WHO TAKES THE CROWN?

KENYA HUNT
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

Catherine Middleton, Kate Moss and Charlene Wittstock went head-to-head in the battle of the best-dressed brides. The couture creations all took to the catwalk-like church aisles to be picked apart. Here's what we learned for it all.

1 Long-sleeves are back, thanks to the Duchess of Cambridge. Just look at the new Twilight movie.

2 A pretty gown can't hide the fact that you can't stand the groom. We can barely remember how the Princess of Monaco's dress looked, but we'll never forget that eerie frozen smile on her face.

3 Never mind that the idea has been a staple of cheesetastic weddings for years, it's now perfectly OK to have 15 bridesmaids in your wedding — as long as they look like little pre-Raphaelite angels like the ones in Kate Moss'. You want to channel rock and roll royalty, rather than prom queens from hell.

4 Never, ever, five more evers, give your maid of honour a hotter dress than yours. We've all heard the horror stories about a rival woman stealing the bride's day. But your own sister? The Pippa Middleton Ass Appreciation Society is still going strong on Facebook.

But have you seen any Kate Middleton Victorian Bustle Admiration Councils, hmmm?

5 Kate Moss is cooler than the real Royals. Mark Ronson, Naomi Campbell, Vivienne Westwood and Marc Jacobs were just a few of the people who attended her wedding.

GETTY IMAGES

Kate and Jamie are in love with a rock 'n' world.

GETTY IMAGES

GETTY IMAGES

THE YEAR'S MOST OVERRATED FASHION PLATES

THE KARDASHIANS

- Sky-high Louboutins, black stretch jeans and leopard print do not a fashion icon make.

JENNIFER LOPEZ

- She makes this list simply for inconsistency. Sometimes she nails it. Other times, such as her crystal-encrusted nude bodysuit on the American Music Awards, she fails miserably.

JESSICA SIMPSON

- Her clothing line is reportedly nearly worth a billion dollars. But we don't get it. Have you seen the way she dresses?

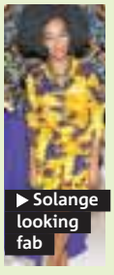
3 life

Style pick

Keep your eyes on Beyoncé's little sis

Fashion blogs and magazines have rightfully acknowledged how amazing Solange Knowles has been looking lately. But it's time for the rest of the world to get in line.

MWN



▶ Solange looking fab

Michael Kors goes from runway to Wall Street after investors clamour for stock

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Say 'cheese' for the New Year

Are you having people over to ring in 2012? Serve this healthy version of cheese fondue

Looking for a way to ring in the year off on a fun and healthy note? Drag out the fondue pot!

This recipe lets you eat sinfully without the sin. The secret is in the blend of cheeses: A low-fat Jarlsberg, a creamy light brie and already low-calorie pecorino Romano make a rich fondue that no one will guess is low in calories and fat.

Traditional cheese fondue can pack 670 calories and 29 grams of fat per serving. This version comes in with just 227 calories and 10 grams of fat.

MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ The fondue serves four people

Preparation:

1. Heat broiler. Set top oven rack about 10 cm (4 inches) below broiler.
2. Cut crusts off slices of bread. Cut each bread slice into 4 equal strips. Wrap 1 bread strip halfway around one grape and poke long metal skewer through bread and grape so skewer is pushed through both ends of bread strip with grape in middle. Repeat with remaining bread strips and grapes.
3. Place all 16 skewers on baking sheet. Broil 2 mins. or until bread is browned, turning once halfway through broiling. Set aside.
4. In saucepan over medium-high, bring water and shallot to a simmer. Cook, uncovered, until shallots are tender, about 2 minutes.
5. In small bowl, mix arrowroot with 30 ml (1 oz) of Champagne. Pour remaining Champagne into saucepan with shallot. Whisk arrowroot and Champagne mix into saucepan. Continue to cook; whisk until mixture thickens, 30 seconds.
6. Reduce heat to low and add Jarlsberg, whisking constantly until cheese melts. Add pecorino and continue whisking until melted. Repeat with brie. Season to taste with salt and pinch of cayenne. Pour mix into fondue pot and serve with bread and grape skewers for dipping. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ROCCO DISPIRITO

Ingredients:

- 4 slices of light whole-wheat bread
- 16 seedless red grapes
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) water
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) minced shallot
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) arrowroot powder
- 125 ml (4 oz) demi sec Champagne, divided
- 125 g (4 oz) Jarlsberg light cheese, finely shredded
- 60 g (2 oz) pecorino Romano cheese, grated
- 60 g (2 oz) light brie, cut up with rind removed
- Salt and cayenne pepper

Weekly Cookbook

Mary Karlin's Artisan Cheese Making at Home is filled with easy-to-follow instructions for making mouthwatering cheese and dairy items.

This lavishly illustrated guide features more than 80 recipes for a diverse range of cheeses: From quick and satisfying Mascarpone and Queso Blanco to cultured products like Crème Fraîche and Yogurt to flavourful selections like Saffron-Infused Manchego, Irish-Style Cheddar, and Bloomy Blue Log Chèvre.

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Arch appeal: Achieve simple, spirited brows

THE KIT

By Janine Falcon

Bold brows wowed from the most recent runways, theatrically at Jean Paul Gaultier and Alexander Wang, and in a more wearable fashion from Jill Stuart and Prada.

Powders and pencils are brow-building staples, but fine-tip marker-like pens are on the rise, like the one Anastasia launched a few years back.

Now available from Stila, Urban Decay and Gosh, they offer sheer, long-lasting shades that suit everyone from light blonde to dark brunette.

Fine-tipped tools:

- Magic Markers Stila All Day Waterproof Brow Color in Medium (also comes in Light). $27 each, stilacosmetics.com.
- Gosh Long Lasting Brow Pens, in Dark Brown, Wheat, Mahogany and Venetian Brown. $15 each, goshcosmetics.com.
- Urban Decay Urban Brow Precision Tip Brow Tint in Universal Blonde and Universal Brunette. $24 each, urbandecay.com

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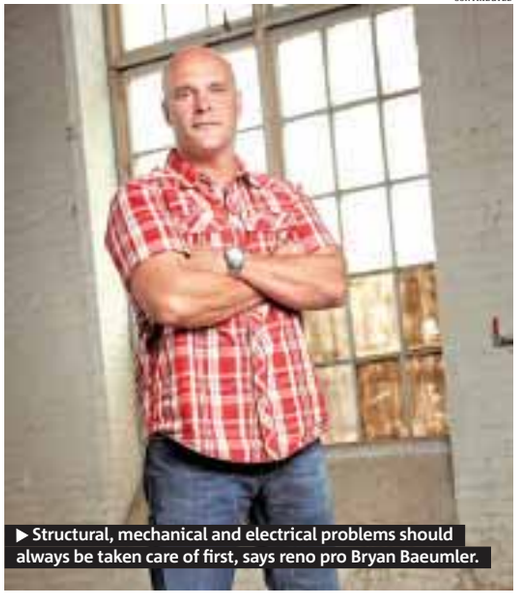
A Winnipeg company is currently looking for an employee with exceptional knowledge of Cantonese and Szechuan style cuisine (including traditional Hong Kong dim sum and Hong Kong style bakery and pastry), is able to and willing to train and to provide recipes and share your skills and knowledge and cooking techniques to the master chefs and sous chefs of the company. You have the following experience: (i) over 5 years experiences of training chefs; (ii) over 5 years experiences of a master chef; and (iii) experiences with opening new restaurants. We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits package. Please send your resume to the following: Eric at: epl663@hotmail.ca

A few renovation rules

Forgot to plant that money tree in your garden? Don't worry, you can still renovate your home Get started

CONTRIBUTED



▶ Structural, mechanical and electrical problems should always be taken care of first, says reno pro Bryan Baeumler.

DIY IDEAS

You've spent ages planning your new kitchen or bedroom. But how much should you spend and how do you get the best bang for your buck?

Leave it to Bryan is a new HGTV series where homeowners who have ideas for their perfect reno turn to Bryan Baeumler (Disaster DIY) with their budget and their home and let him decide which room in their house really needs the reno.

Metro asked Baeumler for a few tips on budgeting for home makeovers.

How much should you spend to renovate a bathroom, kitchen and bedroom?

You really could spend any amount of money on each of these projects, but assuming you are choosing the average, moderately-priced renovation here's what I'd budget:

Three-piece bathroom: $8,000 to $12,000
Kitchen: $20,000 to $25,000
Bedroom: $2,000 to $7,000

Should you align your budget for renovations according to the overall worth of your home? For example, if your house is $300,000, what's a reasonable amount to spend on a bathroom reno?

It's not necessary to directly compare a single renovation with your overall home's worth. The cost of a reno does not just depend on the value of your home, but also the location, neighbourhood, and size of your home. It's all relative to where you are living.

Give us some general tips for getting the most value for your money?

In the bathroom, the best bang for your buck comes from upgrading tiles and fixtures.

In the kitchen, the best bang for your buck comes from countertops, cabinet doors and the backsplash.

In the bedroom, the best bang for your buck lies in the flooring, trim and paint.

However, in any renovation you are doing, don't skip over leaky pipes, electrical problems or structural issues just to get a great look on top. These problems will remain if they're not taken care of properly.

There is no hard and fast rule as to the cost of a particular renovation. You should spend what you are comfortable spending. The costs of renos are always relative.

You can expect labour to be two-thirds of the overall cost, but beyond that materials can vary greatly (tiles can go from 69 cents to $48 per square foot).

If you're doing a reno for resale, definitely don't blow the bank on high end materials as you cannot guarantee that it will be the buyer's dream home.

RUN MY RENOVATION AIRS BACK-TO-BACK EPISODES SUNDAYS AT 9 P.M. ET/ 6 P.M. PT ON DIY NETWORK CANADA.

Kitchen help

▶ "If I had to pick one room that would give the most bang for your buck in home renos, it would be the kitchen. Your family will spend the most time in that room – often three times a day – so it's absolutely worth it."
– Bryan Baeumler

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4 sports

A chance to gain ground

Jets need to beat Canadiens to get closer to playoff territory ◆ Montreal two points back

MARIANNE HELM/GETTY IMAGES FILE

▶ The Jets are on the verge of a playoff spot in the crowded Eastern Conference.

With the line that separates the playoff-bound from the rest of the pack in sight, Winnipeg Jets head coach Claude Noel wants more effort from his team when they meet the Montreal Canadiens on Thursday.

"They're another team we're battling with to get above the line so it's a big game for us," he said.

There's little margin for error considering Montreal (13-15-7, 33 points) was just two points behind Winnipeg (15-13-5, 35 points) after the Canadiens' 5-1 loss Wednesday night in Chicago.

Buffalo and Washington also sit at 35 points in the tightly packed Eastern conference and Toronto and Ottawa, the last teams in the top eight, have just 36.

The Jets failed to pull ahead when they settled for a single point Tuesday in a 3-2 shootout loss to the New York Islanders.

Noel wasn't pleased with how they played the first part of the game.

"I'd like us to play with a little more life. ... We didn't have a lot of spirit in the game."

One concrete example may be the lack of a power-play opportunity. In two meetings this year, the Islanders haven't taken a single penalty against Winnipeg. It didn't hurt the Jets the first time, when they beat New York at home 3-0.

"You have to create your own power plays by getting to the net ... so people have to take you down or hook you," the coach said.

"We didn't really initiate enough to get a penalty called."

Noel said with the Christmas break near, families are around and it may be difficult for players to stick to routines.

The team is feeling the pressure.

"It's so close ... it seems like you're playing either to go to sixth or 13th every given night right now," said defenceman Ron Hainsey.

"The result seems like a very, very big deal every game and you've got another one a day later."

JETS DEFENCEMAN RON HAINSEY

The Jets won four straight to start December to move just below the top eight playoff-bound teams, but it wasn't enough.

"Even if you win three in a row you're really not getting away," said Hainsey.

"It's very intense right now for this point in the season."

Montreal won their first encounter this year 5-1 in the circus surrounding the Jets' regular-season home opener, their first since relocating from Atlanta.

This time it's the Canadiens dealing with outside pressures as controversy swirls around new unilingual anglophone coach Randy Cunneyworth.

"I feel for him, it's hard enough to coach in the National Hockey League let alone coach in tough circumstances like that," said Noel.

"I don't know the situation enough there. I've not lived in the province to understand it enough to say it's right or wrong."

Noel is a Franco-Ontarian who does speak French, although he mocks his own linguistic abilities.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jets preview

Montreal at Winnipeg
7:30 p.m.
TV: TSN-Jets

Winnipeg (15-13-5) is the second road game in two nights for Montreal (13-14-7), which lost 5-1 in Chicago on Wednesday. The Canadiens have now lost four straight, the last three under interim head coach Randy Cunneyworth, who has faced criticism for not speaking French. Montreal is on a six-game road trip and will not return home until Jan. 4, when they will host the Jets. Carey Price has given up three goals in each of his last four starts and will likely start in Winnipeg as Peter Budaj took the loss in Chicago on Wednesday night.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bulls reach five-year extension with Rose

Derrick Rose was going down the list, thanking just about everyone who helped him become one of the NBA's best players, when he looked to his right.

Seated off to the side was his mother, Brenda.

"I think I can finally say this now. Mom, I finally made it," he said.

Rose, the Chicago Bulls' superstar point guard and the league's reigning MVP, agreed Wednesday to a five-year contract extension worth more than $94 million US that kicks in next season.

It's fair to say Rose made it long before this latest news conference. The extension is just another stop in a rapid and steady rise from a tough neighbourhood on Chicago's south side to a starring role with his hometown team after being taken with the No. 1 pick in the draft.

He's gone from the NBA's top rookie to all-star to MVP in just three seasons, becoming the youngest player to win the award. That's why the extension was more a formality than a surprise.

The only thing missing from his resume is a championship and that's something he hopes to change in his fourth season.

"He embodies all the characteristics that you look for," coach Tom Thibodeau said. "It's a lot more than the talent.

"The talent is the obvious part. Then, when you look at his will to win, basketball IQ, unselfishness, his humility — I think those are the things that you can build a championship-calibre team around."

The Bulls came close to winning it all last year, leading the league with 62 victories during the regular season and advancing to the Eastern Conference final before losing to Miami.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan code for more sports.

Will Hay strike gold a second time?

Coach brings same energy, drive to Canada's junior hockey squad that he did in leading team to title in 1995

Asked to describe his coach in three words, Brendan Gallagher almost makes it.

"Competitive, knowledgeable, competitive," says Gallagher, then continues.

"He wants to win more than any other coach."

There is certainly a tirelessness about Don Hay, who coaches Gallagher on both the Western Hockey League's Vancouver Giants and the Canadian junior men's hockey team.

During practice, Hay moves quickly, covers a lot of ice and continually bangs his stick on the ice. He reacts to his players' successes or failures during drills with a gesture or a grimace.

Seventeen years after coaching Canada to gold at the 1995 World Junior Championship in Red Deer, Alta., Hay is stepping behind Canada's bench again with the 2012 edition of the team.

Canada opens the World Junior Championship Sunday in Edmonton versus Finland.

Hay can join Brent Sutter, Craig Hartsburg and Terry Simpson as the only men to coach Canada to gold twice.

Those men did it in back-to-back years. The long interval between Hay's stints is by his own choosing.

A successful junior coach with three Memorial Cup titles, as well as some NHL coaching experience, Hay would have been a leading candidate for the job in recent years if he'd thrown his hat into the ring.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Don Hay looks up ice as he runs his team through drills in practice on Wednesday.

But Hay chose 2012, when the tournament returns to Alberta and the scene of his success in '95.

"Being in Canada first and foremost, I feel comfortable coaching in Canada and in a North American rink," Hay said.

"I still have a passion to coach and I really desired to coach Canada again. I thought it was the right opportunity. I'm not getting any younger."

He may not be, but Hay is a fit 57-year-old. He's an avid runner who enters the Vancouver half-marathon every year. Hay has also not tired of challenging teenage hockey players to become better.

"He loves to see improvements in his players and that I think, along with his conditioning, is why he always seems like he has energy," says Ryan Huska, who is both Hay's assistant coach on the Canadian team and a former player of Hay's on the Kamloops Blazers.

"He really does love teaching kids and young players," Huska continued. "He likes to get them to progress and challenges them to move on to the next level and that's what drives him."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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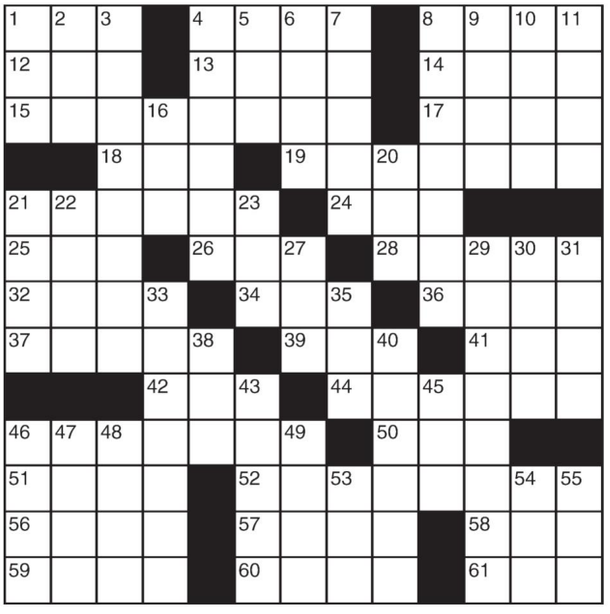
Crossword



Across

1 "Humbug!"
4 Actress Jessica
8 "Pow!"
12 Census statistic
13 Sense
14 Mosque VIP
15 Ball-carrier's target
17 Donate
18 Twosome
19 Beaten down
21 Coarse
24 Definite article
25 Blackbird
26 Gratuity
28 Ballroom dance
32 Baseball team
34 Popular pet
36 Praise highly
37 Trusty horse
39 Young 34-Across
41 Bar supply
42 Caustic solution
44 Recipient's reply
46 Modulate the voice
50 PussyCat's partner
51 Sandwich shop
52 Indispensable aid
56 Plumbing problem
57 Bedouin
58 Neither mate
59 Shaving gel brand
60 Head (Fr.)
61 Ram's fan?

Down

1 Suitcase
2 Earlier
3 Banner
4 Showing buoyancy
5 Mainlander's memento
6 Crooked
7 Watchful
8 "Who cares?"
9 In the thick of
10 Church section
11 Feds
16 Schlep
20 Resistance measure
21 Moving fleet
22 Condominium, e.g.
23 Disencumber
27 Burst
29 Suburban Philadelphia area
30 Dollar
31 Rhyming tributes
33 Thin and slippery
35 Eviscerate
38 Coloring agent
40 "Friends" role
43 Brilliance
45 Puncturing tool
46 Between jobs
47 Require
48 Old Glory
49 Grow weary
53 Adipose tissue
54 Promptly
55 Before

▶ Yesterday's answer

B	A	D		F	A	N	S		H	A	M	S
A	V	A		A	B	I	T		O	G	R	E
N	E	T		C	A	L	A	B	O	O	S	E
G	R	A	N	T			G	O	T			
			A	I	D	A		P	E	R	S	E
B	U	R	N	O	O	S	E		R	E	E	D
I	R	E		N	O	T	R	E		D	A	G
A	G	A	R		M	O	N	G	O	O	S	E
S	E	P	I	A		R	E	G	S			
			O	W	N			H	O	W	D	Y
F	O	O	T	L	O	O	S	E		R	O	E
C	O	V	E		A	R	I	A		A	L	L
C	H	A	R		H	E	R	D		P	E	P

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 Over the next four weeks, you will get numerous opportunities to better yourself. You must take them.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 As the Sun changes signs, your awareness will deepen and many "problems" will cease to exist.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Tread carefully when dealing with other people's money: The potential for trouble is huge.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You are now halfway through your solar year. It's the ideal time to take stock of how far you have come.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You need to do more in some areas but less in others. Make sure you get plenty of rest over the next few days.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 As the Sun moves into the most dynamic area of your chart today, your confidence will soar and you will start to believe that anything is possible.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 If you feel drawn to a certain person, it is because your fates are connected.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The Sun is moving into the most social area of your chart and you'll be more open than usual. Embrace it.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to get serious about improving your cash flow situation. Follow your dream. Make it pay.

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 The Sun enters your birth sign today and a new solar year begins. Think big, act big and expect big.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Stick up for yourself today but don't say too much. Sometimes you are too sensitive to criticism.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. The problem you are confronted with has a simple solution. Stop making things difficult. SALLY BROMPTON

Sudoku

	3		6		7		9	
		9				6		
	4		5		9		8	
	1	8				7	2	
7								9
	5	2				4	6	
	9		4		1		7	
		1				2		
	7		2		8		3	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	1	9	2	4	6	8	7	5
5	7	6	8	1	3	2	4	9
2	4	8	7	5	9	1	6	3
9	2	1	4	7	8	3	5	6
7	6	5	3	2	1	4	9	8
4	8	3	9	6	5	7	2	1
1	9	2	5	3	4	6	8	7
6	5	4	1	8	7	9	3	2
8	3	7	6	9	2	5	1	4

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Matthew Hart, You have been my best love since the day I met you and it will be until we part. I love you always, **ROSE YOUR WIFE**

Danai, Hello My Love, I miss you SO much when you're out of the country! I'm missing my other half! What can I do without you?! Who can i gossip with? MISS U AND LOVE YOU! **YOUR LOVE**

CP "Fred" Here goes nothing. Feel like I missed out last nite for sure! Just wanted to reach out and kiss you so tempted after seeing you 2 days in a row, shaved face was so Much better.lol We have a past,(18yrs) and way different future. If ever another chance for us please let us try.. My candle is lit at both ends not sure if yours is too. Hope to hear from you, today would be nice! Hope you see this. xo **"FRED"**

A look at the weather

TODAY	THURSDAY	THURSDAY
Min -17°	Min -9°	Min -6°
Max -7°	Max -4°	Max -1°

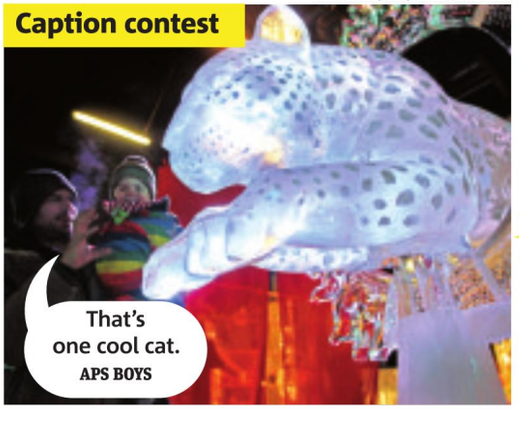
Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM**

Caption contest

DANNY GOHLKE/ DAPD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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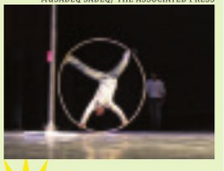

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